

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER

North American Rock Garden Society

SPRING NEWSLETTER, MARCH 2004

CALENDAR OF CHAPTER MEETINGS

** meeting details below**

****SATURDAY, April 10: Spring Meeting**

MEETING: 10:30 am - ca. noon

PLACE: **Hamburg Township Public Library meeting room,**
10411 Merrill Rd., Hamburg [see map insert]

PROGRAM: **10:30 - Business meeting**

11:00 – Fred Case

‘American Wildflowers: Mountain and Tundra’

****SATURDAY, May 8: Garden Tours & Plant Sale**

MEETING: 10:00 am - ca. 4:00 pm

PROGRAM: **10:00 - 1:00 garden tour & bag lunch** [see map insert]

Elaine Rappley’s Garden (first and for lunch)

1:00 – 4:00

Fred Case’s garden (after lunch)

1:30: Plant Sale

****SATURDAY, June 26: Spring Meeting with Conifer Society**

PLACE: **Saguaro Nursery**

PROGRAM: **Trough Workshop and Demonstration**

By: Gary Whittenbough

Put the date on your calendar. We will send out a postcard in a couple months with details and directions.

UPCOMING NATIONAL MEETINGS – see below and your Quarterly for details.

2004 Annual Meeting of the North American Rock Garden Society, May 5-8, 2004 Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.

Sponsored by the Piedmont Chapter, North American Rock Garden Society

Check out the website: <http://www.nargs.org/meet/May04Conf/index.htm>

NARGS members who have not yet attended a national meeting are eligible for a one-time \$300 stipend toward the costs of attending either a Winter Study Weekend or an Annual Meeting.

Requirements are that you have been a member of NARGS for one year at the time of your application and have not been to any National meetings (except for one hosted by your own chapter). Members must apply through the Chapter Chair, Don LaFond. Take advantage of this generous offer.

Colchicums in the Springtime

By
Tony Reznicek

Everyone knows that in addition to spring flowering *Crocus*, there are also a few species that flower in the fall -- thus generating with autumn crocuses -- the genus *Colchicum*. But fewer people are aware that there are also true colchicums that bloom in the spring. These very little known plants have three characteristics that make them appealing to rock gardeners especially. One is that they are small plants with modest leaves in character with a rock garden, unlike the huge cabbages of most fall colchicums. Also, they are very early blooming, often earlier than even the earliest *Crocus*. Finally, they exist in more colors than the pinks and whites of fall colchicums.

My first spring *Colchicum* -- and still one of my favorites, was *C. hungaricum*. This is a small, lilac-pink species that I raised years ago from the NARGS seed exchange. Due to my neglect, it took years to reach blooming size, but what a delightful surprise when I looked out early one spring to find a small, pink star in the rock garden! One of the most interesting features of at least my single plant of this species is that it blooms with, or on occasion before even snowdrops. One year, it actually bloomed during one of our January thaws -- on the 30th!

Two of the most distinctive species, both very early "snowmelt" bulbs of mountain meadows are *Colchicum luteum* and *C. kesselringii*. The scientific name "*luteum*" (yellow) says it all -- *C. luteum* is a small, bright yellow *Colchicum*. A delight as it opens in mid- to late March. This is a wide ranging species through temperate Asia and apparently quite variable in flowering time, flower size, and petal shape. I have only two clones -- but they do look a bit different. The other highly distinctive species, *C. kesselringii*, is a tiny plant with striking flowers that are white with each petal having a purple-blue midvein on the outside. Unless the flower is completely open with the petals oriented horizontally, the bicolor effect is stunning (on the tiny scale of a rock garden bulb at any rate!)

Other spring colchicums that seem to tolerate our climate include the white or pale pink *Colchicum sovitzii*, notable in being free flowering and also very early, *C. triphyllum*, white and again very early, and *C. minutum*. Others are available from specialty catalogues, especially: Janis Ruksans, Bulb Nursery, Rozula, Cesu raj., LV-4150 LATVIA

Of course, some botanists join the genus *Bulbocodium* with *Colchicum* -- and many people grow the readily available *Bulbocodium* (*Colchicum*) *vernum* -- nice but later blooming than the species mentioned above. Plus, the genus *Merendera* is also joined with *Colchicum* by some -- though *Merenderas*, under any name, are uncommonly grown. Although differing in minor botanical details, these are, in fact, all rather similar plants, especially in terms of garden usage.

Fall & Winter Programs

2003—2004

by

Laura Serowicz

The October 26, 2003 meeting was with guest speaker Jim Jermyn, author of "The Himalayan Garden; Growing Plants from the Roof of the World" [Timber Press]. Former owner of Edrom Nurseries in southeastern Scotland, Jim is now director of 'Gardening Scotland' [a national garden show held each year in Edinburgh, Scotland]. The title of his talk was "The Challenge of Growing Himalayan plants" and the key word is 'challenge.' He knows our hot summers are not favorable for most plants from the Himalayas and that it is a challenge to grow these plants here, but with some careful placement we may be successful with some of them. It is important to understand what Himalayan plants need, based on how they grow in their native habitat. Generally speaking they require cool summers, so we would need to create a cooler spot, for example, by digging a deep hole, where the ground is cooler, but where there is still enough light for the plants. Most alpine houses used to be in pits, and alpines were plunged in sand in sunken frames in an attempt to provide a

cooler spot for the alpines that need a cool summer. And if your property has natural water running through it, and shelter with deciduous woodland they should do well. Jim doesn't recommend trying to grow Himalayan plants in shade or under coniferous trees, because most of them grow in open meadows in nature. Many can be happy under deciduous trees because they often set buds in the autumn when the trees are shedding their leaves and they need good light through the winter and then when they are at their most vulnerable in May/June there is leaf cover again to protect them. But those conditions are not for autumn gentians and many primulas, which need more light all year. The other thing Himalayan plants need is a lime free soil-if pH is above 6.5 you will need to dig a bed down or build a raised bed up, put a liner in, and fill with lime-free humus and lime-free soil. For plants in troughs, again, most Himalayan plants need acidic or neutral mixture and water to keep it acidic; should the plant need alkaline soil, add some dolomite limestone to the mixture.

The Himalayas are the epicenter of primulas, gentians, meconopsis, and liliaceous plants. So, what kind of plants can you expect to find at high altitudes and can you consider growing them? Here are just a few of the plants he told us about – from the most diverse groups and with cultivation requirements in Scotland.

Primula

Jim has found that the best way to grow primulas is by understanding the section they belong to, since most will have similar growing conditions (with a few exceptions). *Primula whitei* is one of the easiest of the section Petiolares, it loves woodland conditions, and needs dividing every 2-3 years, after flowering and during a damp spell. Put a pane of glass over Petiolarid primulas to protect the farinose foliage from the winter wet–this is often done to keep them looking good for shows, but it's not necessary to keep them going. *P. sonchifolia* likes its feet in water and is found along the stream-side, along with *P. calderiana*, in rich humusy soil in a sunny glade–they will not perform/flower without some sun. *P. nana* (*P. edgeworthii*) has gone by several names and is now known as 'nana,' which probably was the name of village in Kashmir where it was collected, not because it is small. For Petiolarids, the seed viability is lost within days so collect just before the transparent seed capsule dehisces, sow immediately in a loam-based seed compost, and cover with grit and generally they germinate the next spring. *P. calderiana*, with deep maroon flowers, covers

whole hillsides at alpine-rhododendron zone in the Himalayas. It is very easily grown in an open sunny, damp situation with water running through the roots. *P. strumosa* (*P. calderina* ssp. *strumosa*) with deep vibrant yellow is also easily grown but resents root disturbance so propagate by fresh seed only. *P. boothii*, the white flower form, was found in woods in Annapurna and like many of the petiolarids it is very easy to propagate from leaves. In July/August the leaves easily pop off and at the base of the leaf is a resting bud, just line them up in trays with peat/perlite and cover. *P. reptans* is an easy member of the Minutissimae Section, and is shallow rooted (about 1" down) so have to protect from winter-heaving and summer heat. Generally found in Kashmir, Jim grows it in a shallow 6" deep trough and gives it 35% shade in summer. He likes to grow plants in troughs so he can give them individual attention and control conditions. The Soldanelloides section primulas are Jim's favorites and he sees no reason why they should be impossible. *P. klattii* (*P. uniflora*) is highly desirable with downward facing flowers of fragrant violet or pure white. It has "dead within a few weeks" written all over it, with its beautiful hirsute leaves and infinitesimal shallow roots, so you can't let it dry out or get too hot in summer as it needs a really cool spot for the roots but with light. It grows in mossy situations among ericaceous shrublets. *P. wollastonii* is much easier to grow, with deep purple thimble-shaped flowers and hairy rosette leaves. Grown in a trough with ericaceous plants, it gets morning sun but after 2 o'clock only shade, as it can't take the heat of the afternoon sun. It sends up many plantlets all around the trough which can be severed and grown on, in fact, many of the soldanelloid primulas can be propagated from root cuttings when in growth and not stressed, and it is also easy from seed. Jim grows *P. wigramiana*, with its beautiful white flowers, with moss as a mulch around the plant. He says the right moss doesn't invade but provides support for the plant and there are a number mosses that work well with the soldanelloid primulas. *P. reidii* var. *williamsii* is the easiest soldanelloid to grow. It has white or blue bell-shaped flowers; its dominant color is white, so watch seedlings to keep the blue color going. It grows on moss-covered rocks in western Nepal and has a musky fragrance at night to attract night-pollinating moths. *P. zambalensis* is an easy plant from the Farinosae section but it only lives 2-3 years, and is a fairly recent introduction from Yunnan Province with pink flowers. Try to incorporate sphagnum in its mix as it prefers a damper situation and is shallow rooted.

P. involucrata is an even easier Farinosae *Primula*; all it needs is running water/damp soil. Primulas from the sections Sikkimensis and Candelabra, such as the yellow-flowered *Primula sikkimensis* and *P. helodoxa* thrive with their toes in water. The red flowers of *P. secundiflora* are sweetly fragrant, and the plant is indestructible. *P. chungensis* is another easy yellow-flowered candelabra primula. *P. serratifolia* has the bell-shaped flowers of sikkimensis but 1-2 tiers of yellow flowers like a candelabra. The Amethystina section primulas are sensational but have proven ungrowable, like *P. dickiana*, which is extremely variable in color, shown was a lemon yellow with a darker center. *P. obliqua* in the Nivales section has hanging umbels of white flower with a red calyx, but is ungrowable. The pink-flowered *P. optata*, purple-flowered *P. calliantha*, and daffodil-yellow *P. falcifolia* and *P. elizabethae*, all Nivalid primulas, are also ungrowable. In the Bullatae section, *P. forrestii*, from drier conditions in Yunnan, may be growable in a sunny position with cool roots wedged in between bits of limestone.

Meconopsis

Meconopsis grandis, the perennial blue poppy often tends toward purpling in the flower because of alkalinity of soil and even in the Himalayas not all are good blues, you have to pick out the best blues. *M. grandis* is relatively easy; it needs light and good shelter, because winds easily bruise the foliage. The hybrids tend to be much easier and have better flowers. The true sterile *M. 'Slieve-Donard'* is a wonderful hybrid of the typical Himalayan blue poppy with more lanceolate leaves, but some have begun to suddenly produce seed. The fertile hybrid, *M. 'Lingholm'* produces copious amounts of seed and it comes true from seed so you need to collect seed from the best blues. *Meconopsis* clumps get congested after 3 or 4 year, so lift and divide as leaves pushes through soil. Every flowering crown dies but produces at least 3 offsets after flowering so divide the overwintering resting buds, but don't replant in same soil as "replant disease" in the soil is a common problem. *M. 'Mrs. Jebb'* is one of Jim's favorites, found in a garden in Ireland; it is a sterile hybrid with deeper blue outward facing cups. Another perennial species is *M. quintuplinervia*, Farrer's harebell poppy, with 9-12" high lavender flowers. The easiest *Meconopsis* to please in fairly damp, cool, humus rich soil; it runs about via underground stolons and sets seed. *M. delavayi* is 6" high with deep violet perennial flowers, and found on calcareous soil, so try putting dolomite limestone around rosettes. It is also stoloniferous

and sets seed. This is one to think about trying here. If you have the room for them, the large monocarpic *Meconopsis* are great fun, they are easy to raise from seed, but need an open, moist situation and snow cover over their dinner plate-sized rosettes of silver or orange foliage, and then after several years they produce stately flowering stems up to 6' high. *M. napaulensis* is monocarpic with very floriferous stems of red or yellow flowers. From the panda reserves in Sichuan, *M. punicea* has stunning red downward hanging flowers. You need several plants to get good seed set and need to sow them fresh and then 'bunch prick' them out, with 3 seedling in a bunch; that way the strongest plant flowers first and subsequently the other ones. The variable species, *M. integrifolia* which Farrer called "lampshade poppy", is amongst Jim's favorites. It is easy to grow, monocarpic, taking 2 years to flower, and then producing copious seed. The yellow flowers hang over like tissue paper in the rain.

Gentiana

Gentians represent one of the most important of all the Himalayan genera and all they ask for is a lime-free soil, full sun, and not drying out during the May-September growing season. Grow in open beds, rich in humus and when watering, drench the beds so that they are swimming with water and then leave them—do not top water or the adventitious roots will come up to the surface to get the water and will easily dry out—you want to water so that the roots go down 18" into humus rich soil. For Jim the autumn-flowering gentians start blooming in late July with *G. farreri* and continue to flower through the beginning of November. The sino-ornata group has many hybrids, among them are *G. 'Blue Bonnets'*, a free-flowering, mid-blue or the pure white flowered *G. 'Soutra'*, which was named after a 'wee hill' near Jim's home in Scotland. *G. ×macaulayi* is an easy cross between *G. farreri* and *G. sino-ornata* that just need light and moisture—a big sweep of them is planted at the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh. For the purists, try a choice plant like *G. ornata* which is a diminutive gentian. Plant it in a small trough where the flower can be better appreciated. For even more of a challenge, try *G. depressa*, which needs a tremendous amount of snow cover in winter; it will die if the frost gets to it. With sumptuous turquoise flowers, *G. lawrencei* v. *farreri* (*G. farreri*) is one of Jim's favorites. It prefers a slightly alkaline mix in a trough in full sun and well watered during the growing season. The ultimate challenge, *G. urnula* grows among rocks in a scree/snowmelt area with its blue urn-

shaped flowers and succulent looking leaves sitting between the stones. It is not meant to be grown in the garden; you are meant to go up to 16,000 feet in August to enjoy it.

January 17, 2004

Harvey Wrightman from Wrightman Alpines in Kerwood, Ontario, Canada talked on "Dryland Plants and Gardens." Harvey thinks dryland plants should do well here in sand or tufa beds, as they do in his Southern Ontario garden, which has similar climate conditions. On the East Coast they have more difficulties with these plants because of the heavy March snowstorms that tend to do in many of the dryland plants as they are coming up. Harvey's dry tufa garden is built on clay, and then built up with builder's sand-the kind used for septic systems, but any coarse sand will do, and tufa is laid on top. The important thing for many of these plants is to keep the crowns dry. Tufa is very good for growing dryland plants or, if kept moist, it can grow pinguiculas and other moisture-loving plants. Lots of plants grow well on tufa since it is an almost ideal material in terms of air space and water retention. In fact, 60 % of its volume is space, so it is also much lighter than limestone. Therefore, you can do plants in full sun that normally need some shade protection (like *kabschia saxifrages*) if they are planted in the tufa. Tufa gravel unifies the whole structure of the tufa garden. Tufa gravel helps to keep the foliage dry and is also very useful to use in troughs and for containers with plants that require a moisture retentive gravelly substrate to grow on. You can get tufa gravel from a source in British Columbia bagged by size or Wrightman Alpines now sells 50lb bags of it in 2 sizes. There are no organics in the soil underneath the tufa, so Harvey fertilizes from early spring through June. In very early spring, as the snow melts, he throws granular fertilizer on the garden so that the early growers get the nutrients they need, then he has an injection system that delivers a dilute solution when he is watering. After the beginning of June, he is more careful with applying fertilizer. If there is still more rain coming he will continue to use dilute fertilizer in the water, but stops once the weather dries up; that's the time when the plants normally stop needing it and they shouldn't be fertilized. You need to water a newly established tufa bed 2-3 times a week until things settle in and when it's hot. Rain water is best for watering because it washes off salts from fertilizers on the leaves. And rain water enhances nutrient absorption for plants; it is better able to move

nutrients into the plant roots. Most municipal water sources have salts, chlorine and a high pH (often 7.5-8 pH). Rainwater has no salts and has a slight acidic pH. Salt (Sodium Chloride) interferes with the uptake of potassium, calcium and magnesium. Also, chlorine in water can cause leaf and root burn, so if you use water with chlorine in it, you need to let it sit for a day so the chlorine dissipates. The chloride in salts will persist and accumulate in the soil-which is another reason why it is imperative to water troughs and containers with rainwater. For acid lovers, the water pH should be acidic-6.5 or less-if needed, you can add either dilute acid fertilizer or acid to the water to bring the pH down. Many dryland plants can be grown in a limestone scree - the limestone is tightly bound so its alkalinity doesn't affect the plants. True screes in nature have constantly turned over soil so plants have adapted themselves to those growing conditions. Many of the dryland plants are not difficult to grow once you figure out their cultural requirements and how to provide them in your environment. [For more information on individual dryland plants and how to grow them please ask for the catalog or see www.wrightmanalpines.com

Here are a few of the plants Harvey showed: *Veronica liwanensis* forms a green carpet and has blue flowers with white eyes. *V. stelleri* has flower spires of dark blue in June. Both veronicas are very easy plants. *Asperula pontica* and *A. boissieri* are useful in dry areas and grow well in troughs or crevices with a thick gravel layer. *Alyssum propinquum* is an evergreen mat with yellow flowers that reblooms in the fall. *Draba rosularis* has gray leaves with yellow flowers and like other gray-leaved ones is troublesome to grow. *Areneria tetraquetra* blooms heavier on the tufa rock than in ordinary sand and gravel. *Eriogonums* work quite well in the dry garden and there are a huge range of them, they are very common in the west. *E. umbellatum* is quite easy to grow and there are many forms of it. *E. ovalifolium* is quite beautiful, some forms are easier to grow than others. *E. lanceolatum*, is a narrow leaf form, and is fairly easy to grow. *Scutellaria prostrata* is easy to grow, but most nurseries don't carry it because it looks terrible in a pot and takes all of May to regenerate its leaves. It can take some moisture so doesn't need to be in a dry garden. Blooms for over a month and even the leaves are attractive. Several new forms of *Genista* are being collected by the Czechs from high elevations in Eastern Europe and are quite hardy, including *G. carinalis* and *G. radiata*, both with yellow pea flowers. *Pterocephalus pinardii*

is a low mat-former with large pink flowers above the gray foliage and silky seed heads.

The first year you get *Dianthus microleptis* the clear pink flowers are quite small and you'll wonder why you got the plant, but after it gets established the flowers are much bigger. It needs a gravelly/sandy soil with virtually no organics, but will need some feeding with either a slow-release or liquid fertilizer. *D. haematocalyx* v. *alpinus*, from Greece, is quite easy to grow with lots of pink blooms on a compact plant, and will stand a lot of heat. *D. pavonius* 'Inshriach Dazzler' has bright pink flowers with a buff reverse. *Armeria juniperifolia alba* is a compact form with profuse white flowers that grows best in full sun and dry sand, if water gets around the base it will rot. *Acantholimon armenum* and *A. acerosum* v. *brachystachum* are nice evergreens with pink flowers that are easy and long lived in poor gravelly soil in full sun—just don't try to pet their spiny foliage. Deep pink flowered *Douglasia nivalis*, is difficult to grow as it is quite susceptible to mold, especially after blooming; *D. montana*, is easier to grow, and has bright pink flowers. *Dracocephalum discolor* brings true blue flowers to the garden and is similar to *D. grandiflorum*. *D. imberbe* has a heavy bloom of blue flowers in June and sets seed well, which is good, as this is not a long-lived perennial. *Campanula bornmuelleri* is grown in a dry stone wall in Harvey's garden, but will also do well in pumice grit or planted in a gravel scree, as long as it doesn't get much watering. *C. betulifolia* is a Turkish species with large white bell-shaped flowers that is easy to grow in a scree. *C. linifolia* is even easier, and can be grown in ordinary soil, where the purple and white flowers can mix together. *Edraianthus graminifolius* is another easy to grow plant with blue bell-shaped flowers and grassy foliage. *E. serbicus* has similar sized bell-shaped flowers but on a more compact plant, only growing 8" tall. *Globularia incanescens* is one of the most attractive globularias with shiny leaves and light blue ball flowers. It can grow in the dry sites as well as in a sandy top soil with a layer of gravel on top. Many *Linum* grow well in the dry garden and can tolerate extreme dryness, the blue flowers of *L. hirsutum* bloom for a very long time even on young plants, and *L. mucronatum* has yellow flowers that are ever-blooming, but the plant is harder to acquire because cuttings don't strike and insects tend to get the seeds before the gardener does. *Digitalis obscura* is from Spain and can grow in a variety of sites but to bloom well it should be in full sun with a lot of reflected light. *Antirrhinum*

pulverulentum is an easy to grow subshrub with long blooming creamy yellow snapdragon flowers. *Asarina procumbens* v. *nana* is a dwarf form with the same large long-blooming flowers. *Betonica abchasica* has purple flowers that bloom in June/July. *Pelargonium endlicherianum* has rose-pink flowers that start blooming in July and as long as the young plants are covered with a good layer of gravel the first winter to protect them from winter wet and the March thaw, they will last for years. *Moltkia froebelii* is a shrubby blue borage that is easy to grow. Harvey has recently been trying to grow cuttings of slow-growing *Daphne* such as *D. × 'Leila Haines'* in pieces of tufa and in tufa gravel with some success, and by doing so, he has kept them in character. *Satureja spinosa* is a spiny dwarf shrub for a hot, well-drained site, with white flowers in August.

Oncocyclis Irises from Turkey that grow well in pure sand or a dry site: *Iris paradoxa* is blue flowered and *I. sp. 'Burdur, Turkey'* is pale yellow with brown falls. They increase well, but don't move them when they are in growth. Once the foliage dies down you can do whatever you want to them. *Iris timofejewii* is a slow growing dwarf violet-flowered iris from the Caucasus. The Juno Iris, *I. kuschakewiczii* is quite cold hardy, has white margined leaves, attractive purple flowers in April, and grows in the tufa garden. *Corydalis turczaninowii* is a late flowering bulbous corydalis, not blooming until May or June. It can grow anywhere, in shade and even in sun. *C. schanginii* needs a pure gravelly soil. *Eritrichium aretioides* is almost ungrowable, in nature it grows on pure limestone gravel. *E. howardii* is growable because it is from further down the mountain in elevation; it is grown on tufa gravel. *Polemonium chartaceum* is the easiest of the dwarf species to grow in a lean gravelly soil or trough. *Omphalodes luciliae* is tricky to grow, it doesn't like competition and you have to be careful to not over or under water. He grows it in tufa gravel and takes cuttings to keep stock of it. *O. loikae*, with darker blue flowers, is easier to grow. *Centaurea drabifolia* has golden yellow flowers and grows in a poor, dry gravelly site. *C. achtarovii* has large blue flowers and gray leaves and has survived in tufa gravel. The leaves disappear in summer and you think it is dead, but it buds out from the roots in September when it rains and is cooler. *Jurinella moschus* is a short-lived perennial with fragrant pink powder-puff flowers. *Dudleya cymosa* ssp. *pumila* is a succulent that grows in rock crevices and is hardy. *Dodecatheon pulchellum* 'Sooke Form' is a dwarf

form from Vancouver Island that has huge and abundant deep pink shooting stars. It will grow anywhere in full sun or shade, but the richer the soil the larger it will be. *Polygala amoenissima* doesn't do well in pots but can grow in ordinary garden soil. The dryland Penstemons should be grown in full sun in dry conditions in a coarse gravel/sand bed or trough with no organics and can be given weak fertilizer until early August. They can be moved or divided when in active growth until mid-July, then don't disturb them again until early spring. *P. acaulis* is the dwarfest of all penstemons, with oversized pale blue flowers; it has overwintered for Harvey in the tufa garden. *P. pumilus* has true blue flowers and needs very dry conditions. The turquoise blue flowered *P. uintahensis* is more difficult to grow, it needs very gritty conditions. *P. bracteatus*, with blue-pink flowers, grows on steep unstable slopes and breaks off and reroots again with the shifting of the scree. It is quite growable with slowly rhizomatous roots. *P. janishiae* is a fairly easy drylander for gravel bed, with bright pink flowers. *P. speciosus* ssp. *kennedyi* is a dwarf from California with dark blue flowers. *P. parvulus* has blue flowers in June and is found in Southern Oregon and California, so it can take heat in the tufa garden. *P. arenicola* is an early bloomer in April and grows on pure sand. *Clematis tenuiloba* 'Sprint', from the Big Horn Mountains, is a vigorous pink-flowered form that runs a little bit, but is not at all weedy. *Convolvulus korolkovii* is a white-flowered one from Central Asia, that blooms for two months in summer and then intermittently until November. Unfortunately, Harvey has not been able to get the cuttings to root. *Saxifraga* × 'Jana' is a magenta-flowered selection from Kraus that is very growable; one of the best reds available. Harvey is now propagating all their kabschia saxifrages in tufa blocks. They grow much tighter and more in character that way and they don't have problems with diseases and heat tolerance. *Silene californica* is a dwarf, succulent form with large red flowers, possibly a hybrid, which grows on very dry, steep serpentine slopes in full sun. *Paraquilegia grandiflora*, with dark lilac flowers, can grow on tufa outside. For *Viola delphinantha*, the only way to grow them is on tufa blocks, and if you use rain water, you can use a more dilute fertilizer, because there are no interfering minerals in the water to prevent the plant from taking up the nutrients. *Aquilegia jonesii* is not that difficult once you figure out the cultural needs. Harvey simply scattered the seed in both his limestone and tufa gardens and many

of them germinated in both beds. It takes about 3 years to bloom and they are prolific bloomers.

Fred Case wins the 2004 Scott Garden and Horticulture Medal.

On March 28, in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, Fred Case will be presented with the 2004 Scott Garden and Horticulture Medal. This is the most prestigious horticultural honor in North America. The medal is for individuals who "have made outstanding national contributions to the science are art of gardening." All of us in the Great Lakes Chapter can attest that this award is richly deserved. Fred has been a mainstay of our Chapter for many years, and is still contributing immensely.

Chapter Officers 2001-2002

Please feel free to contact your officers if you have any questions or comments

President:	Don LaFond 11836 McGregor Road Pinckney MI 48169 (734) 426-545 plantjunkies@aol.com
Vice President	Rosalie Meiland 2630 Kimberly Ann Arbor MI 48104 (734) 761-3639 meilandr@umich.edu
Treasurer:	Meroë Kaericher 8171 Brookville Road Plymouth, MI 48170 (734) 459-538 mkaericher@alum.mit.edu
Secretary:	Laura Serowicz 15411 Woodring Livonia, MI 48154 (734) 522-2294 hepatica@twmi.rr.com
Newsletter Editor:	Tony Reznicek 890 Wickfield Court Ann Arbor, MI 48105 (734) 996-0692 reznicek@umich.edu

Please send address changes to our Treasurer, Meroë Kaericher

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION:

Great Lakes Chapter:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

email/FAX: _____

Send \$10.00 per year (check payable to Chapter)

to:

Meroë Kaericher
Treasurer, Great Lakes Chapter, NARGS
8171 Brookville Road
Plymouth, MI 48170-5005

or pay in person at the next GLC meeting

National Organization:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

email/FAX: _____

Send \$25.00 dues (check payable to NARGS)

to:

Jacques Mommens
Executive Secretary
North American Rock Garden Society
P.O. Box 67
Millwood, NY 10546

We strongly encourage people to join both the Great Lakes Chapter and the National Organization.

GREAT LAKES CHAPTER
North American Rock Garden Society
Newsletter Editor, Tony Reznicek
890 Wickfield Court
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48105-1227

FIRST CLASS

Saturday, April 10th meeting: Our speaker will be Fred Case, talking about American Wildflowers: Mountain and Tundra. Fred has traveled extensively throughout all of North America and has unparalleled experience with those alpine and wildflowers that are growable in Michigan and those that are not and which ones people need to keep trying. This should be a wonderful lecture full of exquisite photos and lots of information about American plants.

Saturday, May 8th Garden tours: We will be visiting two gardens: Elaine Rappley's and Fred Case's. Elaine's is large, with meandering woodland paths with areas of ephemerals, bulbs, and other collector herbaceous and shrubby plants. This area borders a large lake with grass gardens, a water plant area in the lake and many perennials. She has a large area where the people can have lunch before they go to Fred's. Make sure you come to see a wonderful garden that we have not yet had open for one of our meetings.

Many people have toured Fred Case's garden, but there is always something new and wonderful to be seen, and the diversity of plants is so high that nobody could see it all in one day. There are rock gardens of various types and extensive woodland gardens, as well as bog gardens and water gardens. The rock gardens should be in excellent bloom, and with any luck at all, the woodland gardens will still be near peak.

PLANT SALE PREPARATIONS for May 8th: If you are a newcomer to our group, you will be surprised at the diversity, number of rarities, and size of our two yearly plant sales. They are one of the best things about being a chapter member, and offer the opportunity to get wonderful and unusual plants at very reasonable prices. Also, the sale is very important to the chapter, as it raises the funds for our excellent speaker program. But because of the size of the sale, we do need to have people try to follow certain rules to make the sale run smoothly and quickly.

At home:

- 1). Please pot or repot plants at least ten days before the sale. Otherwise, the plants may look ragged.
- 2). Please select appropriate plants for the sale. Interesting and unusual alpine, woodland plants, and small woody plants are ideal. No large, common woody plants, annuals, common perennials, and tropicals, please.
- 3). Before you bring the plants, label each pot, with the name of the plant [scientific name, if known, and cultivar or variety, if known]. On the back of the label put your name and the year. This allows people both at the sale or later to ask you about the plant. It also helps us when setting up the sale to talk to you if, for example, you have missed putting a price on the plant.
- 4). We ask people to price their own plants. You can price your plants at home, if you like, but please use a separate price label. The price labels are pulled out of the pots by the cashier to expedite adding up the total.

At the sale:

- 1) If you have not priced your plants at home, please use the chapter price labels provided to price each pot. Prices range from \$2 to \$6.50, but mostly are within the \$2 to \$4 range. Set your plants as close together as possible on the selling tables. You should try to get your plants to the sale a half-hour or so before the sale starts to get them set up and priced, if necessary.
- 2) Ask Rosalie Meiland to look at your plants. For every 10 plants you bring, you are given one Red Label. Each Red Label entitles you to one "First Pick." This means that those who did not bring plants must stand back and wait for those with Red Labels to make their First Picks. The time for First Pickers to make their choices is limited to 3-5 minutes depending upon the number of First Pick labels given out. Keep in mind that you still have to pay for the plants.
- 3) Tell Rosalie if you have brought plants that you think might be of "Auction Quality." These are normally either exceptionally rare and desirable plants not available commercially, plants available only at a very high cost, or large, well-grown specimens of highly desirable plants. She will inform our almighty auctioneers who pass judgment as to which and how many plants to auction. For each of your plants chosen for auction, you will get an additional Red Label.